

PRESS RELEASE

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Atlanta...

Georgia DOT Makes Operational Changes on the Downtown Connector for Little Costs

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation is proving that operational enhancements do not always require major costs.

The Georgia DOT is spending approximately \$356,000 to install additional interstate pavement marking shields as well as restripe selected lanes of the Downtown Connector.

The placement of the additional interstate pavement marking shields will supplement the overhead signs to help direct motorists traveling through Atlanta on the Downtown Connector. The interstate shields provide motorists advanced notification of the I-75/I-85 splits, as well as the I-20 interchange. In addition to the interstate shields, wider stripes and reflective markers will be placed between selected lanes to separate through traffic from local traffic entering and exiting the interstate.

The interstate pavement marking shields will help motorists make the correct lane choices. The wider stripe is intended to distinguish through lanes from exit lanes and discourage last minute lane changes. The goal is to reduce the weaving maneuvers that add to congestion along the Downtown Connector.

“The Georgia Department of Transportation continuously strives to find ways to improve our roadways at lower costs,” said Russell McMurry, Georgia DOT Commissioner. “The interstate pavement marking shield upgrade and new striping will help out of town drivers navigate through the Downtown Connector.”

Georgia DOT contractors began installing the additional interstate pavement marking shields on I-75/I-85 late June. Contractors are expected to begin striping and installing reflective markers in late July. The operational enhancements will begin at the Brookwood Split to University Avenue.

The project is expected to be complete Fall 2015. Work will take place weeknights between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. and on weekends.

Motorists should expect slow-moving equipment and rolling lane closures. Motorists are advised to exercise caution while driving through the work zone.

***DriveAlert ArriveAlive** calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For more information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov. You may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadeptoftrans>).*

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